U. H. R. AS.
CHICAGO.
REPORTS FROM 1859 - 63.

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THIRD ANNUAL REPORT

TO THE

DIRECTORS

OF THE

UNITED

Hebrew Relief Association,

OF CHICAGO,

BY THE

EXECUTIVE BOARD.

CHICAGO:
THE CHICAGO TIMES PRINTING HOUSE, NO. 74 RANDOLPH STREET.

1862.

OFFICERS.

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

OF THE

UNITED HEBREW RELIEF ASSOCIATION

ELECTED FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 1862-3.

PRESIDENT,

M. M. GERSTLEY.

VICE PRESIDENT,

ABR. HART.

TREASURER,

S. HARRIS.

RECORDING SECRETARY,

JULIUS ROSENTHAL

FINANCIAL SECRETARY,

N. EISENDRATH.

TRUSTEES,

B. SCHOENEMAN.
HY. FRANK.

THIRD ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

EXECUTIVE BOARD

TO THE

Board of Directors of the U. H. R. Association.

CHICAGO, OCTOBER 19TH, 1862.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

It has been customary with our predecessors in office, to submit to your Honorable Body an Annual Report; and thus imitating them, it is our aim to review in short the transactions of this Association for the fiscal year just ending. Before entering upon the details thereof, we feel constrained to offer our thanks to our Heavenly Father who has clothed us with a ready will and sufficient means to carry out the noble objects of this Institution. In His benign wisdom He has directed our steps to find out and comfort the needy, to clothe the naked, to give aid and consolation to the sick, and to protect the widow and the orphan. It is our heartfelt prayer that He may guide the actions of your future managers, that the members of this Association and this meeting and its deliberations may prosper under the rays of His benign Providence.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

In pursuance to a call, the Board of Directors met in convention on September 23rd, 1861, composed of the following Delegates, duly accredited:

From the Hebrew Benevolent Society.—M. Klein, L. Silverman, N. Eisendrath, J. Greensfelder, H. Liebenstein, J. Moor, B. Foreman, and A. Hart.

From Ramah Lodge.—H. Felsenthal, H. Greenebaum, J. L. Gatzert, L. J. Unna, A. Newberger, Isidor Lehbrecht, and B. Felsenthal.

From the K. B. S.—J. H. Henosh, A. Herzog, C. Summerfield, J. Frost, and N. Levy.

From the L. B. S.—Mrs. R. Foreman, Mrs. Lehman, and Mrs. L. Freiberger.

From the Y. L. B. S.—Mrs. M. Hirsch, Mrs. Rubel, and Mrs G. Foreman.

From Relief Society No. 1.—H. Kohn, J. Rosenberg, and J. Cook.

From Relief Society No. 2.—Mr. Levy, Mr. Lindner Mr. Nelson, and A. Alexander.

From K. A. M.—M. Gerstley.

From the Sinai Congregation.—B. Schoeneman.

OUR COMPONENT SOCIETIES.

The contributions from our Component Societies have exceeded those of last year, $22 54, after deducting the amounts contributed by the Young Men's Fraternity, and Clay Literary Association, both of which have formally dissolved. Under this head we have the pleasure to record the name of a new member. It is the Ladies Sewing Society, which was organized on the 22d of September, 1861. The subject to organize such a society was first introduced by the Ladies' Benevolent Society, and met the prompt co-operation of many ladies' hereto-

fore not members of any society. Under the very efficient management of their President, assisted by an active board of officers, their society soon flourished, counting between ninety and one hundred members. They met once a week for nearly three months, and on several occasions we visited them at their Sewing Hall. It was a rich treat indeed. They all seemed imbued with the same kind spirit which will naturally arise by being engaged in so laudable a cause. We extracted the following from their Constitution: "It is the object of the Ladies' Sewing Society to procure materials and finish garments, bed-quilts, etc., for the benefit of our poor co-religionists, and that all such articles, when finished, shall be handed to the officers of the U. H. R. A., for proper distribution." We embrace this opportunity of acknowledging the receipt of one hundred and forty-eight different articles, which in many instances were even more desirable to us than their actual value in cash, for that class of people coming into our care are often so reduced in the various necessities of life, that ready-made garments to clothe their freezing children, and quilts to comfort a mother when prostrated on the sick-bed, are articles almost indispensable to afford instantanious relief. We deem it just to say that the Ladies' Sewing Society, as a new member among our component societies, deserves the admiration, the heartfelt thanks and most lively encouragement from this Board, and the community at large.

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD,

Consisting of the undersigned, and whose term of office expires to-day, has held during the first six months regular weekly, and during the last six months regular semi-monthly meetings, besides about twenty-five Special Sessions, where the various applications and transactions of the Association in general came up for action. Almost every application was referred to a special Investigation Committee before final action. By adopting this course we strove to do justice to our Association as well as to applicants, and on this occasion we would most highly recommend that in selecting your Executive Board for the ensuing year, you should take every precaution to place only such gentlemen in office as are energetic and self-denying.

It is an easy task to find hundreds of men in our community who are very charitable at heart, which is a very necessary qualification for an officer to possess, but they must also be qualified to ascertain and judge the worthiness of an applicant, and act accordingly.

REVENUES.

In accordance with a resolution passed at a special meeting of the Board of Directors, on October 6th, 1861, the President appointed a Committee of seven, to collect, by subscription, funds necessary to meet the demands upon our Relief Fund during the present year. Finding this number, however, inadequate to carry out the aims of the resolution, he added three other members to this committee, which was then composed as follows: Messrs. M. M. Gerstley, B. Schoeneman, J. H. Henoch, N. Eisendrath, Henry N. Hart, M. Marcus, Jacob Rosenberg, Henry Horner, and Henry Liebenstein. We have the pleasure to submit to you their original report.

To the Executive Board of the United Hebrew Relief Association:

GENTLEMEN—Enclosed please find forty-six dollars and fifty cents, being the balance of collections made since handing to your body the amount of seven hundred and twenty-one dollars and sixty-two cents. We have received, in addition to the above, orders from different parties amounting in all to ninety-seven dollars and seventy-five cents. Believing that we have called upon all of those who are able and willing to contribute their mite to so noble an object, we beg leave to offer to your consideration, in addition to our statement, a few words relating to our own experience in this enterprise.

Your Committee have had an excellent chance to find out the feelings of the Israelites of this city towards the United Hebrew Relief Association, and we are happy to say, that they do not only rejoice at the existence of so noble an organization, but that it is also their ardent desire to see this a permanent institution for all time. You will, therefore, feel less surprised when we tell you that the experiment proved a perfect success. Gentlemen, you are no strangers in Chicago, for every benevo-

lent person of our co-religionists in this city is acquainted with your good works; their hearts bound at the hearing of your names, for many as the good deeds of your worthy organization are, they are freely told by the worthy recipients of charity at your hands. "May you never get weary of your task."

All that is left for us to say, is, you shall ever find us ready to co-operate with you if we are needed. Believing this to be the proper mode of securing a sufficient amount necessary for the maintenance of the poor, and knowing it to be entirely free of any expense to the Association, we beg leave to recommend this plan to your body, as an enterprise sure of success in future times for like purposes.

Respectfully yours, for the Committee,

HENRY A. HART, *Secretary.*

Leaving it to your discretion to discourse the merits of this Report, we cannot refrain from expressing our sincere thanks to the gentlemen composing said committee. With a zeal self-denying and incessant, they acted nobly and faithfully in their trust, and we do most willingly acknowledge that to their extraordinary exertions it may be attributed, that such a difficult task has been accomplished.

We also have to acknowledge the receipt of different amounts of money collected at funerals by the H. B. S. and K A. M. and to Ramah Lodge, and private individuals for moneys collected at festivals.

DISBURSEMENTS.

Before stating the exact amounts, we would premise that an unusually large number of sick persons came into our care during the latter part of this fiscal year, and we considered it our most sacred duty to supply them with every comfort in our gift. In one case, for instance, a young man who had no means to sustain himself, was afflicted with consumption, and the physicians considered his case a hopeless one unless he could make a tour across the ocean. By an article in our Constitution we are not allowed to pay out more than twenty dollars in one application, yet the situation of this unfortunate man appealed so strongly to our sympathies that by extraordi-

nary exertions and outside assistance, we succeeded in obtaining passage for him from Chicago to Bremen, which is near his native home, for the amount as above stipulated. In one other case, where the dreary shadow of misfortune in its various forms seemed to haunt a family continually, we had to spend, during a period of nine months, by using the greatest economy, at least one hundred and fifty dollars, until they finally left the city. You will also perceive, by the report of our Financial Secretary, that considerable money has been expended for the purchase of Railroad Tickets, a large portion of which were for poor families who had resided here, and were frequent recipients of charity.

At our last semi-annual meeting, it was resolved, that a committee should be appointed to make collections among our co-religionists for the purpose of raising two hundred dollars in aid of the wounded soldiers of the battle of Pittsburg Landing, and that this Association should contribute fifty dollars towards the amount. The committee, consisting of Messrs. H. Greenebaum, Henry Liebenstein, and J. H. Henoch, succeeded in collecting the amount of one hundred dollars. Three of our component societies handed over to us eighty-five dollars, and after consulting several gentlemen of the Board of Directors, and in consideration of the state of our Relief Fund, we thought it sufficient to add the balance, fifteen dollars, to make up the above-named amount. The money was handed to the Sanitary Committee, and in reply we received the following:

CHICAGO SANITARY COM., April 28th, 1862.

To Messrs. I. Greensfelder, President, J. L. Gatzert, Secretary, U. H. R. A.

GENTLEMEN—Your kind and most acceptable favor, enclosing a check for $200, contributed for the relief of the wounded and sick heroes of Pittsburg Landing—$115, by the Society of which you are the officers; $50, by the Hebrew Benevolent Society; $25, by the Ladies Benevolent Society; and $10, by Ramah Lodge; commands the acknowledgments of this Commission.

Please tender to the noble hearted contributors and accept for yourselves, Gentlemen, our grateful thanks alike for the

contribution, and for the manifestation of your confidence in our faithfulness. It will be our endeavor to prove ourselves worthy of the important trust thus frankly confided to us, and hoping to meet in their full extent the benevolent wishes of yourselves and those you represent. On behalf of the Chicago Sanitary Commission, I am, Gentlemen,

Very respectfully yours, &c.,

MARK SKINNER.

In compliance with another resolution passed at the same meeting, we have purchased thirty cords of wood for the coming winter, at five dollars a cord, all of which is subject to your order, at the yard of Burch & Carter.

FINANCES.

For the general completion of this Report we would here insert the report of our Finance Secretary, Mr. N. Eisendrath.

Dr. FINANCIAL SECRETARY IN ACCOUNT WITH

1861.				
Sept.	29	To cash bal. handed in by the preceding Board,	$55 31	
		" Donation of the new Board,	5 00	
		" Contribution of K. B. S.,	19 00	
Oct.	13	" " Ramah Lodge,	60 00	
		" " H. B. Society,	100 00	
	20	" " Young Ladies' Association,	25 00	
		" " Relief Society No. 2,	8 37	
Nov.	2	" Collection at Funerals,	18 00	
	23	" " of L. Silverman,	22 50	
		" " of Ladies' Benevolent Association,	25 00	
		" " at Moor 's Dinner Party	1 75	
Dec.	15	" " Collecting Committee at Large,	768 22	
	12	" " Eisendrath,	2 75	
1862				
April	6	" Collected at Funerals	4 00	
		" " Private Party,	10 00	
		" " of Young Ladies' Association,	25 00	
May	6	" " at Funerals,	3 00	
		" " "	2 00	
July		" " from Administration of Silverberg,	11 00	
		" " at Funerals,	2 50	
Aug.		" " B. B. Party,	12 00	
		" " at Funerals,	1 60	
		"	2 00	
		"	1 50	
		Interest of $500.00,	20 00	$1205 50
		Balance in Treasury,		21 83
1861		*Reserve Fund.*		
Sept.	39	To Cash bal. paid in by the preceeding Board	19 69	
		" Interest of $700.00 for one year,	70 00	
1862				
Aug.		To two Notes Invested,	700 00	$789 69
		Balance in Treasury,		89 69
		Standing of Finances to-day:		
		To Cash in hand of the Treasurer, in Relief Fund,	$21 83	
		" " " " in Reserve Fund,	89 69	$111 52

THE U. H. RELIEF ASSOCIATION. Cr.

1st 6 months.	2d 6 months.	Whole year 1861-62.		1st 6 months.	2d 6 months.	Whole amt.
28	20	48	By Expenditures in Cash	$157 89	$100 74	$259 63
42	15	57	" Groceries and Flour,	132 35	56 69	189 04
12	6	18	" Medicine,	2 89	9 98	12 87
6	9	15	" Rail Road Tickets,	42 00	37 75	79 75
8	9	17	" Rent for Dwelling,	26 50	31 00	56 50
1	1	1	" Funeral Expenses,	5 00		5 00
22	3	25	" Wood and Coal, Excepting Orders,	36 00	14 00	50 00
5	8	13	" Strangers,	31 93	25 75	57 68
3	3	6	" Board at the Hospital,	23 50	8 50	32 00
8		8	" Wearing Apparel and Bedding, except the Goods Donated,	14 42		14 42
18		18	" Flour, except the Orders Donated,	20 86		20 86
			" Stoves and Furniture,	7 62		7 62
5		5	" Matzos,	32 97		32 97
16		16	" Sanitary Committee, Camp Douglas and Pittsb'g Landing,	20 00	15 00	35 00
1	1	2	" Ticket to Europe,		20 00	20 00
	1	1	" Drs. Valenta and Spannigel,		18 50	18 50
	2	2	" Assisting a sick woman,		6 38	8 38
	1	1	" Drayage for wood, coal, &c.,			10 35
			" 12 months' Salary to Bergman,			36 00
			" for Printing last year's Report			
			" Committee of Collection, &c.,			42 45
4		4	Discount on money collected,			65
			By 30 Cords Wood for next Winter,			150 00
			Cash in Treasury this day,			21 83
			By expending for goods to peddle			45 00
			Cash on hand,	$21 83		$1205 50
			Reserve Fund.			
			By Investment in Real Estate Security,			$700 00
			By Interest on above for one year,			70 00
			By bal. of preceding Board,			19 69
			Total,			$789 69
			Cash on hand,	$89 69		
			Besides the amount of Receipts and Expenditures of our Relief Fund, as above stated, we have received and expended Groceries, Flour, Shoes, Hardware and Clothining Orders, valued at	$400 00		
			Quilts and Sundries of the Ladies' Sewing Society	200 00		
			Medicines of Dr. Mahla,	20 00		
			18 Cords Wood of the preceding Board,	72 00		
			Total,		$692 00	
			Which, when added to the above, will make the whole amount of Receipts and Expenditures about			$1,900 00

HOSPITAL FUND.

You will observe that our Reserve Fund has only been increased during the last two years by the interest accruing from the capital invested. The necessities for a hospital are increasing as fast as time. To illustrate the fact, allow us to state that we have been several times obliged to bring persons under our charge into the City Hospital, and in one instance one of our patients was suddenly visited by death, during the night, without the customary rites practiced in our faith. Often, too, have we been necessitated to send sick persons to other cities to receive the benefit of a Jewish hospital. This is not as it should be. The Israelites of Chicago have of late years added many laurels to their reputation of being a benevolent people, but much remains to be done. Aside from contributing to the Relief Fund of the United Hebrew Relief Association, they are now called upon by every sacred duty which they owe to humanity and Judaism to immolate their mite upon the altar of benevolence, and to devise ways and means to build a hospital where the sick and the wounded might find a place of refuge! This would truly be a "Monument of Glory," which every contributor might look upon with the extreme gratification of having rendered his assistance in its erection. We cannot too highly recommend that the deliberations of this meeting should be directed to this subject, and that the initiatory steps should now be taken towards the erection of a Jewish hospital.

THE PUBLIC.

In accordance with instructions received at the mass meeting on October 6th, 1861, we purchased out of funds then collected, a walking cane, with a golden head, and presented the same to Dr. R. N. Isham, bearing the inscription: "Presented to Dr. R. N. Isham, as a token of esteem in behalf of the Israelites of Chicago, October 1861." The Dr. accepted the same, expressing his sincere gratitude, and reassuring us of his great desire of attending our poor in the future as he has done in the past, believing it to be his duty to lend a helping hand in so noble a cause. We have, since then, had occasion to call on him several times and are under obligations to him for his

prompt attention. Our thanks are due and hereby tendered to Revs. S. Alder and B. Felsenthal for the delivery of lectures at our mass meeting. To Dr. Mahla, for selling us medicines at greatly reduced prices. To Dr. Spannagel, for attending sick persons under our care free of charge. To the Mayor and Common Council, for granting free licenses to persons under our charge. To the Hebrew Benevolent Society, for allowing us to bury a child free of charge, at their burial place, as also to K. B. S., for a like favor.

To the M. C., C. B. & Q., C. & C. Air Line, and the P. & Ft. W. R. R. Co.'s, for selling us tickets at half fare, as also to the C. & M. Steamboat Line. To Mr. J. M. Marshall, for giving us the use of his Hall free of charge, and to Mr. C. B. Heart, for selling us flour at reduced prices.

CONCLUSION.

Having thus presented to you a Report of the operations of this Association during the last year, we might, under ordinary circumstances, here rest the case without any concern whatever, but that all the funds necessary to a successful prosecution of the objects of the Association, will be forthcoming without any solicitation on our part. But unfortunately we are surrounded by circumstances which, aside from charity, require great sacrifices. We are living in a time which indeed "tries men's souls." The very existence of that good Government, to which the Israelite especially is indebted for the enjoyment of political equality, and religious liberty, is threatened at the hands of a most bold and wicked conspiracy. The Stars and Stripes, that emblem of justice and free institutions, have been trampled under foot by traitors at home, while the act, if not openly commended, is secretly cheered by Despots and Crowned heads of tyrannical Europe. Brave hearts and strong arms are rushing to the rescue by the hundred thousands in support of the Government, and every loyal man is called upon to bring sacrifices in a holy cause. And nobly, yes, thrice noble, and patriotically did the Israelites of Chicago respond in the emergency. With a burning love for country and freedom did they arise, far above all selfish consideration; and praise resounded throughout the land for their support of

the war, most liberal and truly magnificent. While thus contributing to public necessities, individual *economy*, more than ever becomes a public virtue. *In the exercise of this virtue, however, the poor and needy dare not be forgotten.* No, indeed, we cannot close the hand of charity in the face of poverty, or withhold our benevolent support from those of our faith who are beneath the tread of misery, helplessness, and destitution. As always heretofore, we claim the right of assisting the poor and sick of our people, without making them the objects of public charity; always remembering, that, "he who giveth to the poor, lendeth to the Lord." And however burdensome it may be to impose duties on ourselves, in many cases, perhaps disproportionate to our abilities, we feel that charity must be done, and that the Jewish heart of this community will readily supply that encouragement to do good which our own words of solicitation may fail to give.

Sincerely grateful for the generous confidence which you have steadily manifested in our administration of the affairs of the Assoication, we are, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Respectfully, your obt. servants.,

ISAAC GREENSFELDER, *President.*
M. KLEIN, *V. President.*
JOSEPH L. GATZERT, *Rec. Secretary.*
N. EISENDRATH, *F. Secretary.*
ABR. HART, *Treasurer.*
JONAS MOORE, } *Trustees.*
A. HERZOG, }